

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented) A cooking implement, comprising:

a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end, said female end opening into an expanded section comprising a larger inside diameter than the remainder of said sheath;

a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath;

said expanded section being diametrically and longitudinally sized to snugly receive said male portion in a friction fit and upon joining said male portion to said female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user to manipulate said utensil end;

said male portion further comprising a rounded end and an opposite end, wherein upon inserting said utensil end into said hollow sheath, said opposite end of said male portion seats within said expanded section with a friction fit to fully enclose said utensil end within said sheath.

9. (previously presented) The cooking implement as recited in claim 8, wherein said sheath and male portion are cylindrical and said closed end of said sheath is rounded identically to said rounded end of said male portion.

10. (withdrawn) The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, further comprising said male portion having a threaded outside diameter for threadably engaging with a threaded inside diameter of said female end.

11. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, wherein said male portion further comprises a pin, said pin engaging with a slot imparted into said female end.

Claims 12-18 (canceled)

19. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, wherein said utensil further comprises means for interchangeably connecting various utensil ends.

20. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 19, wherein said means comprises a shaft having a male adaptor and said utensil ends comprise a female adaptor for coupling with said male adaptor.

21. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement of claim 19, wherein said utensil ends are selected from the group consisting of a spatula, a fish basket and a popcorn cooking pot.

Claims 22-24 (canceled)